IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMIL.P.,	PANY)
Plaintiff,)
v.) C.A. No. 17-1736 (RGA)
MEDIACOM COMMUNICATIONS CO	
Defendant.) PUBLIC VERSION))
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COML.P.,	PANY)
Plaintiff,)
v.) C.A. No. 18-361 (RGA)
WIDEOPENWEST, INC., et al.,) REDACTED
Defendants.) PUBLIC VERSION))
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COML.P.,	PANY)
Plaintiff,)
v.) C.A. No. 18-362 (RGA)
ATLANTIC BROADBAND FINANCE, et al.,	LLC,) REDACTED PUBLIC VERSION
Defendants.))

SPRINT L.P.,	COMMUNICATIONS COMPAN	
	Plaintiff,)
v.) C.A. No. 18-363 (RGA)
GRANDE NETWOE	E COMMUNICATION RKS, LLC, et al.,	S) REDACTED PUBLIC VERSION
	Defendants.)

SPRINT'S MEMORANDUM AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF ITS CONSOLIDATED MOTION TO EXCLUDE EXPERT TESTIMONY OF MR. BAKEWELL

POLSINELLI PC Stephen J. Kraftschik (#5623) Christina B. Vavala (#6135) 222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1101 Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 252-0920 skraftschik@polsinelli.com cvavala@polsinelli.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Sprint Communications Company L.P.

OF COUNSEL:

B. Trent Webb

Ryan J. Schletzbaum
Ryan D. Dykal
John D. Garretson
Jordan T. Bergsten
Aaron E. Hankel
Lauren E. Douville
Mark D. Schafer
Maxwell C. McGraw
Samuel J. LaRoque
Thomas M. Patton
Lydia C. Raw
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Boulevard

Kansas City, MO 64108

(816) 474-6550

Robert H. Reckers Michael W. Gray Jonathan M. Hernandez SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. JP Morgan Chase Tower 600 Travis Street, Suite 3400 Houston, TX 77002 (713) 227-8008

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I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") files this motion to exclude certain opinions of Defendants' damages expert, Mr. W. Christopher Bakewell, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702.

II. NATURE AND STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Sprint filed the above-captioned lawsuit against Mediacom Communications Corp. ("Mediacom") on December 1, 2017 and filed the remaining above-captioned lawsuits against Atlantic Broadband, WideOpenWest, and RCN3 on March 7, 2018. On March 20, 2020, Sprint's damages expert, Dr. Russell Mangum, served his opening reports regarding the damages owed to Sprint due to each defendants' infringement of the patents-in-suit. The defendants in the four above-captioned cases retained the same damages expert, Mr. W. Christopher Bakewell, who served his rebuttal reports for each defendant on April 24, 2020. Dr. Mangum served his reply reports responding to those rebuttals on May 15, 2020. The Court scheduled these cases for one-week jury trials beginning on October 14, 2020. See Scheduling Order, Sprint Commc'ns Co., L.P. v. Charter Commc'ns, Inc. et al., No. 17-cv-1734-RGA, D.I. 50 at 12 (D. Del. Aug. 29, 2018).

III.SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENTS

1. This Court should exclude Mr. Bakewell's royalty conclusion in his rebuttal damages reports of per month per subscriber for Sprint's "Christie Patents," as his reports do not explain how it was calculated, and it does not appear to follow from any of the "inputs"

Atlantic Broadband, Finance, LLC, Atlantic Broadband (CT), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Delmar), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Miami), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (NH-ME), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Penn), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (SC), LLC, and Metrocast Cablevision of New Hampshire, LLC (collectively "Atlantic Broadband").

² WideOpenWest, Inc., WideOpenWest Networks, Inc., and WideOpenWest Finance, LLC (collectively "WideOpenWest").

³ TPG Global, LLC, Grande Communications Networks, LLC, RCN Telecom Services, LLC, WaveDivision Holdings, LLC, and Radiate Holdings, L.P. (collectively "RCN").

identified in his reports. Other than circular cross-citations to other conclusory statements in his report, there is no actual explanation for how Mr. Bakewell arrives at this figure. Therefore, neither Sprint, nor the Court, nor the jury has any way to fairly evaluate the credibility or soundness of his opinion. Mr. Bakewell's failure to explain or demonstrate calculations for his methodology used to arrive at his reasonable royalty is precisely the type of damages opinions disfavored by the Federal Circuit, and should result in exclusion. For the same reason the Court should exclude Mr. Bakewell's conclusion on rate for Sprint's "Enhanced Services" patents, a rate he likewise only discusses in conclusory sentences without explaining how it could be properly calculated from record evidence.

2. The Court should also exclude Mr. Bakewell's opinions assuming that

In his analysis of the second *Panduit* factor in response to Sprint's lost profits claims, Mr. Bakewell concludes that

This opinion is in direct contradiction to established legal principles, and should be excluded.

Acceleration Bay LLC v. Activision Blizzard Inc., No. 16-cv-00453-RGA, 2019 WL 4194060, at *7 (D. Del. 2019) (excluding opinion of damages expert who "assumes non-infringement based

3. This Court should also exclude Mr. Bakewell's repeated references to other alleged in the United States, which he discusses without any evidence that a technical expert has analyzed their technical comparability to the patents in this case, and without any evidence that those patents are valid, or have been used or paid for by anyone. These

on Plaintiff's decision not to pursue infringement claims").

references are not sufficiently tied to the facts of the case, and are confusing and unfairly prejudicial rather than helpful to the jury.

IV. STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS⁴

A. Mr. Bakewell's Reasonable Royalty Opinions.

B. Mr. Bakewell's Opinions Regarding Sprint's Patent Infringement Accusations.

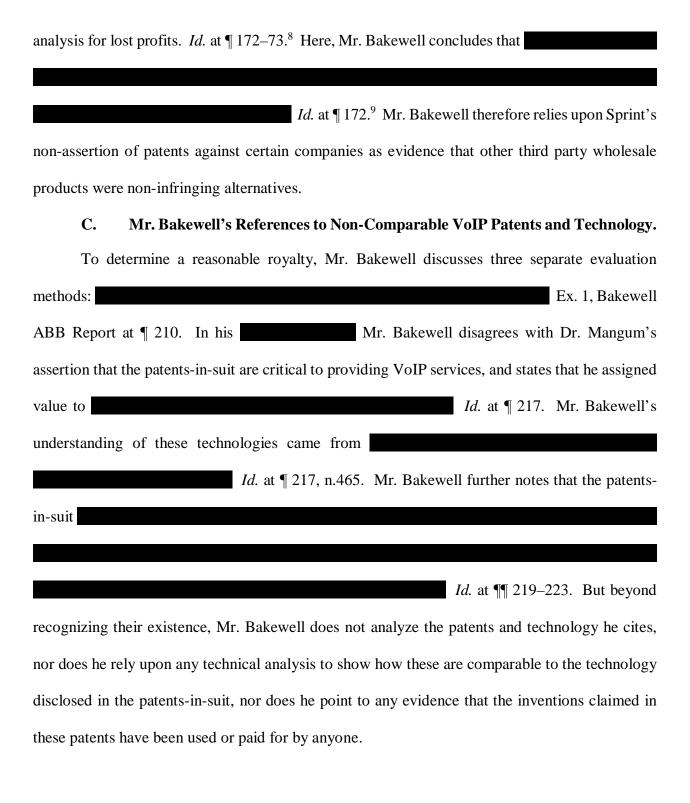
Mr. Bakewell opines that Dr. Mangum failed to consider that the defendants could have used a wholesale VoIP provider other than Sprint in the context of the second *Panduit* factor

⁴ Mr. Bakewell provides a separate report in each of four cases, but those opinions are largely similar. For the Court's convenience, Sprint will provide a citation to each of the four reports, but Sprint's legal argument is the same for each opinion.

⁵ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 405; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 406; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 404.

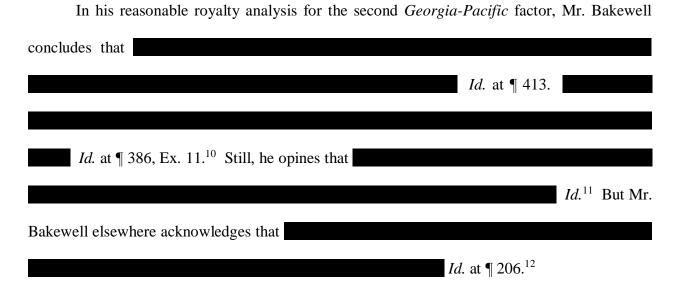
⁶ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 400; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 401; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 399.

⁷ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 407; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 408; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 406.



⁸ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶¶ 170–72; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶¶ 171–72; Ex. 4, RCN Report at ¶¶ 169–70.

⁹ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 170; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 171; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 169.



V. ARGUMENT

Experts in patent cases may testify only if: "(a) the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue; (b) the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data; (c) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and (d) the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case." FED. R. EVID. 702(a)–(d). "[U]nder the Rules the trial judge must ensure that any and all scientific testimony or evidence admitted is not only relevant, but reliable." *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharms., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 589 (1993).

"The party offering the expert testimony bears the burden of proving admissibility." *Daubert*, 509 U.S. at 592. "The expert must explain how and why he or she has reached the conclusion being proffered and must have as a basis more than a subjective belief or speculation."

 $^{^{10}\,}$ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 384; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 385; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 383.

¹¹ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 384; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 385; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 383.

¹² Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 204; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 205; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 203.

Cryovac Inc. v. Pechiney Plastic Packaging, Inc., 430 F. Supp. 2d 346, 362 (D. Del. 2006). The "test of admissibility" is whether an expert's "opinion is based on valid reasoning and reliable methodology." *Oddi v. Ford Motor Co.*, 234 F.3d 136, 145–46 (3d Cir. 2000).

A. Mr. Bakewell Did Not Disclose Any Calculations Supporting His Royalty Conclusion, and It Should Be Excluded As "Plucked Out Of Nowhere"

Mr. Bakewell concludes that a reasonable royalty for Sprint's "Christie Patents" is but does not provide any calculation resulting in that rate to allow Sprint or the jury to re-create, test, or even begin to understand that conclusion. Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶ 407. As such, this conclusion appears to be "plucked . . . out of nowhere" and should be excluded. See Exmark Mfg. Co. v. Briggs & Stratton Power Prods. Group, LLC, 879 F.3d 1332, 1351 (Fed. Cir. 2018) (reversing failure to exclude damages opinion).

Mr. Bakewell nowhere explains how any combination of numbers in his report supports the he opines on, and this cannot be gleaned from his report. Mr. Bakewell presents a chart of but none of those equals which is also not the average of any discernable combination of these "data points." Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶402. He may be a suggests one more calculation that but there is still no apparent way to combine this with any of Mr. Bakewell's to result in left. Id. at ¶406. He may be a suggest one more calculation that the following conclusory statement:

¹³ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 405; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 406; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 404.

¹⁴ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 400; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 401; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 399.

¹⁵ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 404; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 405; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 403.

The Federal Circuit has repeatedly warned against expert testimony that, beyond being divorced from the evidence in the case, appears to be "plucked ... out of nowhere." *Exmark*, 879 F.3d at 1351. In fact, the Federal Circuit held that it was reversible error to allow such expert opinion. *Id.* In *Exmark*, the Federal Circuit was "troubled by the expert's analysis because, even assuming she properly considered this record evidence, she failed to explain how the evidence

¹⁶ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 405; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 406; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 404.

In three other places in Mr. Bakewell's report, he confusingly suggests his royalty determination is to which all of these same arguments would equally apply. *Id.* at ¶ 15, ¶ 409 n. 855, ¶ 481 n. 955. *See also* Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 15, 407 n. 847, 480 n. 951; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 15, 408 n. 847, 481 n. 950; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 15, 406 n. 859, 485 n. 973.

¹⁸ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 294; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 295; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 293.

¹⁹ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 400; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 401; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 399.

factored into the proposed royalty rate," and "merely addressed the Georgia–Pacific factors in light of the facts and then plucked the 5% royalty rate out of nowhere." *Id.* The Federal Circuit went on to hold that the district court erred by allowing this opinion, and abused its discretion when it denied the defendant a new trial on damages "based on inadmissible evidence." *Id.*

Another such case is *LaserDynamics, Inc. v. Quanta Computer, Inc.*, 694 F.3d 51 (Fed. Cir. 2012). There, the Federal Circuit observed that the royalty rate "appears to have been plucked out of thin air based on vague qualitative notions of the relative importance of the [relevant] technology." *LaserDynamics*, 694 F.3d at 69. It agreed with the district court that the expert had "offer[ed] no credible economic analysis to support that conclusion." *Id.* Finally, it held that the "complete lack of economic analysis to quantitatively support the one-third apportionment echoes the kind of arbitrariness of the '25% Rule' that we recently and emphatically rejected from damages experts, and would alone justify excluding [the expert's] opinions in the first trial." *Id.*

In Whitserve, LLC v. Computer Packages, Inc., 694 F.3d 10 (Fed. Cir. 2012), the Federal Circuit relied on similar grounds to vacate a damages award and remand for a new damages trial. There the Federal Circuit concluded the trial court abused its discretion by failing to grant a new trial on damages, and held that "simple recitation of royalty numbers that happen to be in the ballpark of the jury's award will not support the jury's award when no analysis is offered to the jury which would allow them to evaluate the probative value of those numbers." Whitserve, 694 F. 3d at 32–33.

This Court should exclude Mr. Bakewell's conclusion for the same reasons set forth in *Exmark*, *LaserDynamics*, and *Whitserve*. Mr. Bakewell offers no explanation, no calculation, and no methodology from which any fact finder could fairly evaluate the credibility or soundness of his opinion. The number simply appears in a paragraph as a conclusion in his report. His

rate is "plucked from nowhere," and certainly not "the product of reliable principles and methods," or any discernable method at all. This deficiency dooms Mr. Bakewell's opinion because it goes to admissibility, not weight. It cannot be cured by cross-examination because it is nothing more than a black box opinion pulled from nowhere. See Netfuel, Inc. v. Cisco Sys. Inc., No. 5:18-cv-02352-EJD, 2020 WL 1274985, *7 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (where an expert's opinion was "an impermissible black box without 'sound economic and factual predicates,'" cross-examination "cannot cure the deficiencies"). In other words, Mr. Bakewell's report, despite being around does not even provide a fair place to start for examining his conclusion. Sprint respectfully submits that the Court should exclude this unsupported conclusion with undisclosed predicates. These same arguments apply with at least equal force to Mr. Bakewell's conclusion that Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶ 409.²⁰ That number appears only in conclusory statements of what the royalty should be, without any discussion of how it is calculated other than that Mr. Bakewell concludes *Id.* For the same reasons discussed as to the unexplained and unsupported royalty for the Christie

B. The Court Should Exclude Mr. Bakewell's Opinions

Mr. Bakewell's reports claim that

Patents, the Court should also exclude Mr. Bakewell's conclusion on this

²⁰ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 407; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 408; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 406.

Id. at ¶ 172.²¹ Further, based solely on , he opines that *Id.* This court has previously rejected an expert opinion assuming that a product was an acceptable non-infringing alternative based solely on the lack of accusation of infringement. In Acceleration Bay, this court found "there is no evidence or expert opinion in the record to support a conclusion that earlier versions of the game are non-infringing. The fact that a party does not accuse an earlier version of a game is not an admission that the earlier version is non-infringing." Acceleration Bay, 2019 WL 4194060, at *5. The facts of this case are no different. Mr. Bakewell opines that, Bakewell ABB Rep. at ¶ 171.²² He opines that *Id.* at ¶ 172.²³ But there is no evidence in the record that any third party service has been found to be non-infringing, and Mr. Bakewell does not cite to the conclusion of any technical expert that assesses this issue. Mr. Bakewell's opinions are therefore contrary to law. Merely because Sprint has not chosen to

accuse a third party of infringement does not mean that the services offered by that third party do not infringe Sprint's patents; if that were true, TWC could not have infringed Sprint's patents

²¹ Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶ 172; Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 170; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 171; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 169.

²² Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶ 171; Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 169; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 170; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 168.

²³ Ex. 1, Bakewell ABB Report at ¶ 172; Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 170; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 171; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 169.

because Sprint had earlier sued Vonage and several other defendants before it sued TWC. Mr. Bakewell's assumption to the contrary should be excluded.

C. Dr. Bakewell's Reliance on Other VoIP Patents and Technology and Non-Comparable Licenses Should Be Excluded

Mr. Bakewell's reports

without pointing to any evidence that a technical expert has assessed their comparability to the patents asserted here, or that anyone has ever used or paid for the technology in these patents. The Court should exclude these unhelpful references with no proper connection to the facts of this case. When conducting a damages analysis, "alleging a loose or vague comparability between different technologies or licenses does not suffice." *Laser Dynamics*, 694 F.3d at 79. Additionally, "the Federal Circuit has consistently explained that proof of damages must be carefully tied to the claimed invention itself." *M2M Sols. LLC v. Motorola Sols., Inc.*, No. 12-33-RGA, 2016 WL 767900, at *2 (D. Del. Feb. 26, 2016) (internal quotations

i. Mr. Bakewell's "Say-So" Conclusions Regarding the Relevancy of Other VoIP Patents and Technologies Is Unreliable

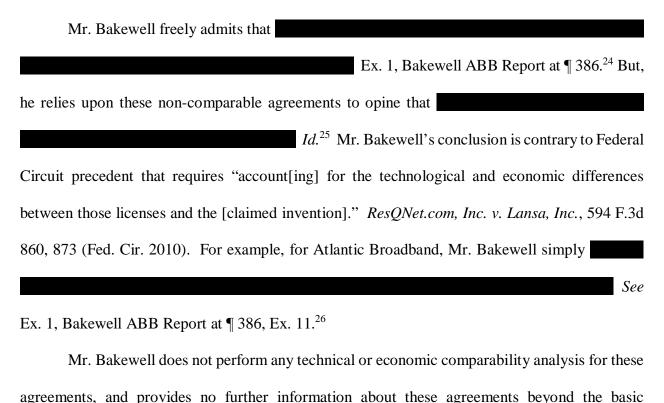
Mr. Bakewell's identification of other patents and technology related to VoIP fails to reliably demonstrate that those patents and technology are closely tied to the technology at issue in this case. Other than concluding that

omitted).

Mr. Bakewell does not offer any evidence or analyses regarding the incremental economic value of the other patents and technologies. Glaringly absent from Mr. Bakewell's analysis is any review of the other patents and technologies to show they are so related, and the only support provided for these conclusions are repeated references to an off-the-record conversation with defendants' technical expert. Indeed, a complete review of the record demonstrates that there is no evidence of any of the defendants, let alone anybody else, using or paying anything for other

patents related to providing VoIP. Mr. Bakewell's "say-so" that these other VoIP patents and technologies are relevant to the value of the patents-in-suit is precisely the type of analysis this Court has excluded as unreliable and irrelevant. *See M2M Sols.*, 2016 WL 767900, at *3–4.

ii. Mr. Bakewell's Opinions Depending On Non-Comparable Licenses Should Be Excluded



²⁴ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 384; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 385; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 383.

²⁵ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 384; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 385; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 383.

²⁶ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 384, Ex. 11 (
27); Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 385, Ex. 11 (
28); Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 383, Ex. 10 (
29)

10).

Id. at ¶ 206.²⁷ This shows there is no justification whatsoever for mentioning these agreements to patents that are admittedly not comparable to the license from a hypothetical negotiation in this case. Accordingly, any conclusions based upon these agreements are unreliable and should be excluded. *See TC Tech. LLC v. Sprint Corp.*, No. 16-cv-153-RGA, 2019 WL 2515779, at **14–15 (D. Del. July 18, 2019) (excluding expert damages opinions regarding prior settlement agreements because they were not tied to the case's relevant facts and circumstances).

VI. CONCLUSION

Because Mr. Bakewell's opinions fail to satisfy the standards outlined in Fed. R. Evid. 702, Sprint respectfully requests that the Court exclude the opinions and testimony discussed herein.

POLSINELLI PC

/s/ Stephen J. Kraftschik

Stephen J. Kraftschik (#5623) Christina B. Vavala (#6135) 222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1101 Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 252-0920 skraftschik@polsinelli.com cvavala@polsinelli.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Sprint Communications Company L.P.

OF COUNSEL:

B. Trent Webb
Ryan J. Schletzbaum
Ryan D. Dykal
John D. Garretson
Jordan T. Bergsten
Aaron E. Hankel
Lauren E. Douville
Mark D. Schafer
Maxwell C. McGraw
Samuel J. LaRoque
Thomas M. Patton
Lydia C. Raw
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

Robert H. Reckers

(816) 474-6550

2555 Grand Boulevard Kansas City, MO 64108

²⁷ Ex. 2, Bakewell Mediacom Report at ¶ 204; Ex. 3, Bakewell WideOpenWest Report at ¶ 205; Ex. 4, Bakewell RCN Report at ¶ 203.

Michael W. Gray Jonathan M. Hernandez SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. JP Morgan Chase Tower 600 Travis Street, Suite 3400 Houston, TX 77002 (713) 227-8008

June 12, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 25, 2020, I caused the foregoing to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which will send notification of such filing to all registered participants.

I further certify that I caused copies of the foregoing document to be served on June 25, 2020, upon the following in the manner indicated:

Steven J. Balick Andrew C. Mayo ASHBY & GEDDES 500 Delaware Avenue, 8th Floor P.O. Box 1150 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 654-1888 Attorneys for Defendants Mediacom Communications Corporation, Atlantic Broadband Finance, LLC, Atlantic Broadband (CT), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Delmar), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Miami), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (NH-ME), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Penn), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (SC), LLC, WideOpenWest, Inc., WideOpenWest Networks, Inc., WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Georgia, LLC, Knology of Alabama, Inc., Knology of Florida, LLC, Knology of Georgia, Inc., Knology of South Carolina, Inc., Knology of Tennessee, Inc., Knology of Kansas, Inc., Anne Arundel Broadband, LLC, Grande Communications Networks, LLC, RCN Telcom Services, LLC, WaveDivision Holdings, LLC, and Radiate Holdings, L.P.

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Robinson Vu Natalie Alfaro Gonzales Lindsay Volpenhein Cutie Amy E. Bergeron Charles Stephen Maule BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. One Shell Plaza 910 Louisiana Street Houston, TX 77002-4995 (713) 229-1234 Attorneys for Defendants Mediacom Communications Corporation, Atlantic Broadband Finance, LLC, Atlantic Broadband (CT), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Delmar), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Miami), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (NH-ME), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Penn), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (SC), LLC, WideOpenWest, Inc., WideOpenWest Networks, Inc., WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Georgia, LLC, Knology of Alabama, Inc., Knology of Florida, LLC, Knology of Georgia, Inc., Knology of South Carolina, Inc., Knology of Tennessee, Inc., Knology of Kansas, Inc., Anne Arundel Broadband, LLC, Grande Communications Networks, LLC, RCN Telcom Services, LLC, WaveDivision Holdings, LLC, and

Radiate Holdings, L.P.

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Timothy S. Durst BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 900 Dallas, TX 75201-2980 (214) 953-6500 Attorneys for Defendants Mediacom Communications Corporation, Atlantic Broadband Finance, LLC, Atlantic Broadband (CT), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Delmar), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Miami), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (NH-ME), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (Penn), LLC, Atlantic Broadband (SC), LLC, WideOpenWest, Inc., WideOpenWest Networks, Inc., WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, WideOpenWest Georgia, LLC, Knology of Alabama, Inc., Knology of Florida, LLC, Knology of Georgia, Inc., Knology of South Carolina, Inc., Knology of Tennessee, Inc., Knology of Kansas, Inc., Anne Arundel Broadband, LLC, Grande Communications Networks, LLC, RCN Telcom Services, LLC, WaveDivision Holdings, LLC, and Radiate Holdings, L.P.

/s/Stephen J. Kraftschik

Stephen J. Kraftschik (#5623)